

No. R-264. Senate concurrent resolution congratulating Susan Koch on her selection as the 2016 Vermont Teacher of the Year.

(S.C.R.33)

By Senators Doyle, Cummings, and Pollina,

By Representatives Hooper of Montpelier and Kitzmiller of Montpelier,

Whereas, the Vermont Agency of Education (AOE) annually selects the Vermont Teacher of the Year as a way “to promote the teaching profession and to recognize educators who are modeling ‘best practices’ in Vermont’s schools,” and

Whereas, in the fall of 2015, after reviewing an excellent roster of nominees, the AOE chose Susan Koch, a kindergarten and first grade teacher at Montpelier’s Union Elementary School who advocates a collaborative teaching process, as the recipient of this much-coveted professional accolade for 2016, and

Whereas, one of Susan Koch’s innovative projects was the creation of a blog entitled *Mrs. Koch’s Class News*, featuring colorful photographs and stories relating her class’s myriad activities, and

Whereas, beyond the traditional classroom, Susan Koch has championed natural resources education, as a leading and enthusiastic participant in the North Branch Nature Center’s Educating Children Outdoors, a standards-based nature immersion program, and

Whereas, on Tuesday, November 17, 2015, a capacity crowd consisting of Union Elementary School students, faculty, and staff; the Montpelier School Superintendent; the Vermont Secretary of Education; and the Governor gathered in the school’s gymnasium to honor and applaud Susan Koch, and

Whereas, in her acceptance speech, Susan Koch described teachers as “learners, explorers and adventurers” who work in an “exciting, dynamic and fluid profession,” and

Whereas, these sentiments illustrate why Susan Koch was an ideal choice to serve as the 2016 Vermont Teacher of the Year, and

Whereas, Susan Koch will be traveling throughout Vermont, visiting schools, working with teachers, and proudly representing her profession, and

Whereas, Susan Koch will also serve as Vermont’s nominee for the Council of Chief State School Officers’ National Teacher of the Year award and will be honored, with similar state award winners, at a White House reception, *now therefore be it*

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly congratulates Susan Koch on her selection as the 2016 Vermont Teacher of the Year, *and be it further*

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to Susan Koch.